

REMARKS

This response is accompanied by a Request for Continued Examination. Claims 1,3, and 5-33 are currently pending. Applicant has amended claims 1, 20 and 22 and added new dependent claims 28-35.

Claims 1, 3, and 5-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wegner (U.S. Patent No. 6,116,664). Amended claims 1, 20 and 22 include the limitation that an abutment 22 moves along a first path into alignment with a release element and along a second path misaligned with the release element 14, wherein the first and second paths are different.

Wegner discloses an abutment (1.26A) that rotates about the pivot (1.10) along a single path. The pivot (1.10) is fixed, therefore the abutment (1.26A) can only move along the single fixed arcuate path. Further, Applicant has added new claims 28 and 32 that recite the limitation that a portion of the first path is transverse to the second path. The Wegner abutment (1.26A) is fixed for movement about the pivot (1.10) and therefore includes a single path. Applicant has also added new claims 29,30 and 33 that further define the first path as including an arcuate portion and a linear portion. Again, Wegner discloses only a single arcuate path of abutment (1.26A).

Amended claim 21 includes the limitation that the control means includes a locked and unlocked position, and that in the unlocked position the release mechanism moves along a first path to move a release element to a release position and in the locked position, the release mechanism moves along a second path and does not move the release element. Further, claim 21 requires that movement along the first path include an arcuate movement into contact with the release element

and a generally linear movement to move the release element to a release position. Wagner does not disclose separate paths for an abutment.

Accordingly, Applicant requests favorable consideration of this response. Please contact Applicant's agent at the below listed number if it is felt that a teleconference would aid in forwarding this application to grant. If any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully Submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.

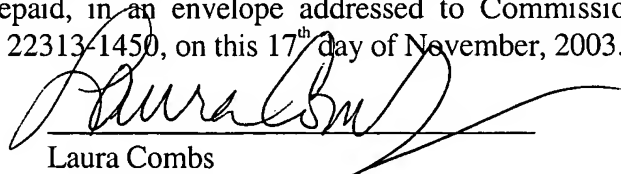


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CERTIFICATE OF MAIL

I hereby certify that the enclosed Response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 17th day of November, 2003.



Laura Combs